

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6645

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABERONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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LONDON FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY AND SEITZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: ROWLAND-DUFF VISIT TO LAGOS

1. DUFF TOLD ME SEPTEMBER 2 THAT THEIR VISIT TO LAGOS (SEPTEMBER 1-3) WAS MARRED BY FMG'S LAST-MINUTE "INABILITY" ARRANGE FOR VISITORS TO MEET WITH HEAD OF STATE OBASANJO, AND BREAKDOWN OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR ROWLANDS TO RECORD EIGHT-MINUTE TV INTERVIEW REGARDING PURPOSES THEIR VISIT. TOLBERT'S CONCURRENT VISIT CITED BY GARBA AS EXCUSE. BOTH DISAPPOINTMENTS DEVELOPED AFTER FRIENDLY CONVERSATION WITH GARBA WHICH PROCEEDED VERY MUCH ALONG LINES OF SCRIPT BRITISH HAD WORKED OUT AMONG THEMSELVES IN ADVANCE - THAT IS, AGREE ON ASSIGNMENT OF NEW UK HIGH COMMISSIONER (FMG HAS NAME AND ACCEPTS), TOUCH ONLY BRIEFLY ON INDIGENIZATION AND OTHER BILATERAL ISSUES, AND SPEND MOST OF CONVERSATION ON CURRENT STATE OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN

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PROBLEMS AND US/UK DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS RESOLVE THEM.

2. DUFF SAID ROWLANDS WAS SO ANNOYED BY THE FMG COLD SHOULDER ON OBASANJO'S MEETING AND TV INTERVIEW THAT HE IS CONSIDERING NOT MAKING ANY DEPARTURE STATEMENT AND THUS LEAVING UP IN THE AIR ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN UPCOMING NORMALIZATION OF UK/NIGERIAN RELATIONS. DUFF SUSPECTS, HOWEVER, THAT ROWLANDS WILL RELENT.

3. ROWLANDS AND DUFF RELIEVED THAT GARBA ASKED NO PARTICULARLY POINTED QUESTIONS ON DETAILS OF CURRENT US INITIATIVES. DUFF SAID THEY ARE UNDER TIGHT WRAPS AND COULD NOT HAVE TOLD HIM MUCH. THEY NONETHELESS RECEIVED CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT GARBA APPLAUDS SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ON-GOING EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF RHODESIAN AND NAMIBIAN DILEMMAS.

4. DUFF TOLD ME HE FOUND MACHEL A SOMEWHAT "FRIGHTENING" PERSONALITY - AN "UNEDUCATED IDEOLOGUE" WHOSE PRAGMATISM ON RELATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA WAS NOT MATCHED BY SIMILAR MODERATION REGARDING RHODESIA. ACCORDING TO DUFF, MACHEL BELIEVES ZIMBABWE CAN COME TO TRUE INDEPENDENCE ONLY BY THE SAME ROUTE FRELIMO FOLLOWED - THAT IS, PROLONGED WARFARE WAGED BY GUERRILLA FIGHTERS WHO WILL EVENTUALLY FORGE A UNITED MILITANT NATIONALIST MOVEMENT THAT WILL WIN THE COUNTRY BY FORCE. SELFISH AND WELL AS IDEOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS MOTIVATE MACHEL SINCE HE SEES MOZAMBIQUE AS THE PRINCIPAL SPONSOR OF SUCH A MOVEMENT.

5. DUFF SAYS THEY FOUND KMANDA BITTER ABOUT SMITH AND EQUIVALLY BITTER ABOUT VORSTER AND NEARLY READY TO WRITE OFF THE CHANCES OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT. NYERERE WAS MORE OPTIMISTIC AND MORE FLEXIBLE. DUFF REGRETTED SERETSE KHAMA HAD NOT BEEN BROUGHT MORE DIRECTLY INTO CURRENT DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES.

DUFF SAID NUJOMA HAD TOLD THEM SWAPO WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE IN NAMIBIAN TALKS UNLESS SWAPO'S IDENTITY AS SEPARATE BARGAINING AGENT WAS PRESERVED. NUJOMA'S FIRST RESPONSE TO SOUTH AFRICA'S OFFER TO SWAPO HAD BEEN TO INSIST THAT THE OTHER NAMIBIANS LINE UP ON SOUTH AFRICA'S SIDE OF THE TABLE. HE SUBSEQUENTLY RELENTED TO THE EXTENT OF SAYING SWAPO WOULD ACCEPT BLACK NAMIBIANS "AT THE ENDS" OF THE TABLE BUT NOT ON SWAPO'S SIDE OF IT.

7. DUFF WAS STRUCK BY GARBA'S LACK OF INFORMATION ON CURRENT
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EVENTS AND PERSONALITIES IN RHODESIA. GARBA TURNED TO A STAFFER AND ASKED, "WHO'S THAT THIRD-FORCE FELLOW WE MET?" (GARBA DID THE SAME THING IN A MEETING WITH ME IN JUNE. IT'S ROBERT MUGABE.) SIMILARLY, DUFF AND I AGREED THAT GARBA'S KNOWLEDGE OF NAMIBIA SEEMS LIMITED TO WHAT NUJOMA TELLS HIM. NEVERTHELESS, DUFF SAYS THEIR VISIT WAS USEFUL ON THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTION. "NIGERIA WON'T BE ABLE TO HELP US VERY MUCH, BUT THEY'RE IN A POSITION TO DO A LOT OF DAMAGE. WE SHOULD KEEP THEM IN THE PICTURE TO THE

EXTENT THAT WE CAN, AND WE THINK YOU SHOULD TOO."

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